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XI.—*On two new Birds from Borneo.*

By the Rev. H. H. SLATER, B.A.

(Plate IV.)

IN a small collection of bird-skins from the neighbourhood of Sarawak, Borneo, for which I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Harvey, there are two interesting forms, belonging to genera not yet recorded from Borneo. One is a *Myiophoneus* (unfortunately an immature individual), on which some remarks will follow; the other is a *Parus*, which I propose to call *Parus cinerascens*.

This bird belongs to the *P. cinereus* group, but is very distinct from any species yet described. It falls as below under the various heads of the key given in the British Museum Catalogue (vol. viii. p. 5):—

“F. Neither yellow nor blue [meaning, presumably, bright blue] in the plumage; no crest.

m. Crown black.

h⁴. Mantle and back blue-grey.

e⁵. Sides of breast and flanks white.”

It differs from *P. cinereus*, its nearest ally, in having no

visible nuchal patch, though a few of the feathers on the nape, if lifted, will show a small whitish spot about their centres. The black of the crown comes much further down the back (as in *P. borealis*, when compared with *P. palustris*); the black upon the chest occupies a much greater area than in *P. cinereus*, forming a large plastron, which is connected across the shoulders with the black nape, and from which a broad mesial line proceeds down the abdomen, to join the black patch which includes the lower part of the abdomen and the thighs. In *P. cinerascens* the back is much bluer than in *P. cinereus*, in which the back inclines to a buff-grey; the exterior margins of the remiges and the lesser wing-coverts are of the same blue-grey, the tips of the greater coverts forming a white bar across the wings; the sides of the abdomen are of a buffish white, darker than in *P. cinereus*, and becoming bluer towards the flanks. The upper tail-coverts are black (not grey, as in *P. cinereus*); of the under coverts, a few next the vent are white, a few next them have a longitudinal white stripe, whilst those next the tail are black; the central rectrices are of a deep sooty brown verging on black; the external one alone on each side marked with white, which occupies all its area, including the shaft, excepting a narrow marginal border to the inner web, which is black. In *P. cinereus* the outer three or four on each side show more or less white, the outermost being wholly of that colour. I append a diagnosis and comparative measurements:—

PARUS CINERASCENS, sp. n. (Plate IV.)

P. cinereo consobrinus; capite, collo, pectore, lineâ abdominali mediâ, crisso, cruribus, tectricibus caudæ superioribus nigerrimis; capite, collo et pectore aliquid nitentibus; maculâ postoculari albâ; dorso cæruleo-plumbeo; alis nigrescentibus; lateribus abdominis cinnamomeo-albidis, crura versus magis cinereis; caudâ nigrescenti; rectricibus duabus externis albis, nigro interius strictim marginatis; rostro pedibusque (desiccatis) nigris.

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J.G. Keulemans lith.

Hanhart imp.

PARUS CINERASCENS

	<i>P. cinerascens.</i>	<i>P. cinereus.</i>
	poll. Angl.	poll. Angl.
Long. tota	4.80	5.0
Culminis	0.35	0.45
Alæ	2.65	2.5-2.6
Caudæ	2.03	2.3
Tarsi	0.65	0.7-0.75

It is somewhat singular, considering the extended range of *P. cinereus*, that this smaller bird, with a comparatively longer wing, should not have been heard of before.

Wing-formula of *Parus cinerascens*:—First primary half the length of second; second much shorter than third and equal to ninth; third and fourth longest, subequal, the third the merest shade the shortest; the rest gradually decreasing.

The single specimen in my possession was obtained by Mr. Harvey in the Bungal Hills near Sarawak.

The *Myiophonus* above mentioned is an immature specimen, though with tolerably well-developed wings and tail, and therefore is hardly worth full description. It would have been expected to resemble more or less closely the rare Sumatran species *M. (Arrenga) melanurus*, Salvad.; but the points of resemblance seem to lie in the black colour, in the whitish centres to the flank-feathers, which are only seen when the feathers are ruffled (and in which it resembles most, if not all, other known species), and in a faint purplish gloss upon the feathers of the shoulders and lesser wing-coverts, much like that in the Purple Sandpiper. There is no trace of the reddish or chestnut colour of the axillaries, abdomen, and tail of *M. melanurus*, which is described as appearing distinctly in the young bird as well as the old. In addition, the feathers of the throat, sides of the neck, and breast are marked with whitish central stripes, in which it appears also to differ from the Sumatran form. Lastly, as will be seen below, comparing it with the largest described Sumatran specimen, an adult female, it is a somewhat larger bird. Briefly it may be described as sooty brown in colour, with whitish stripes on the throat, breast, and sides of neck; the under wing-coverts white, edged with sooty black, and,

as before mentioned, whitish centres to the feathers on the flank ; bill and feet black.

	Sumatran bird, ♀ ad.	Bornean do., juv.
Length.....	9.50	9.90
Culmen	0.90	0.95
Wing	4.75	5.30
Tail	3.50	3.40
Tarsus	1.70	1.75

For these reasons, I venture to predict that further specimens will prove it to be distinct, and I propose to call it *Myiophoneus borneensis*. This bird was obtained by Mr. Harvey in the Bungal Hills near Sarawak.

I here acknowledge having received Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe's valuable opinion upon both these birds, and also his kindness in placing the Museum specimens at my service for purposes of comparison.

XII.—On the Birds of Central India.—Part II.

By Lieut.-Col. C. SWINHOE and Lieut. HENRY BARNES.

[Concluded from page 69.]

93. *COPSYCHUS SAULARIS*, Linn.

♂. Length 8.25 inches, expanse 11.5, wing 3.75, tail 3.3, tarsus 1, bill at gape 1, bill at front .63.

The Magpie Robin is common, and is a permanent resident, breeding during May and June. The young can easily be reared by keeping the cage containing them in a place accessible to the parent birds, care being taken to remove them as soon as they are able to feed themselves.

94. *THAMNOBIA CAMBAIENSIS*, Lath.

The Brown-backed Indian Robin is very common, and is a permanent resident, breeding from March to July.

95. *PRATINCOLA CAPRATA*, Linn.

The White-winged Black Robin is common, and is a permanent resident.

96. *PRATINCOLA INDICA*, Blyth.

The Indian Bush-Chat is common in the cold weather.